

Regular Meeting
April 3, 2006

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 6:00 pm in the Panel Room of the 1767 Courthouse.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Bill Gardner, Wayne Goodwin.

Absent: Harry Lee Winslow, due to his wife having surgery today.

Chairman Wayne Goodwin called the meeting to order and announced that Ross Inglis passed away on March 30. He called Mr. Inglis a good friend to Chowan County and to the Board of Commissioners, and noted Mr. Inglis' extensive work to preserve the 1767 Courthouse, and also mentioned his many contributions to the community. Chairman Goodwin asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Inglis and Commissioner Downum followed with an invocation.

Consent Agenda

The minutes of the March meetings and the following budget amendments and tax releases were approved by motion of Commissioner Gardner.

Ayes 6

No 0

Budget Amendments

Register of Deeds 4180	inc \$12253	automation preservation fund
EMS 4370	inc \$ 8000	ambulance equipment
DSS 5363	inc \$ 4000	foster care funding
Sr Center 4268	inc \$ 3488	Aging state grants

Tax Releases

RL Charlton	\$126.30	vehicle sold
JT Dowd	\$105.64	vehicle sold
RS Mizell Jr	\$249.96	vehicle sold
ME Perry	\$213.97	listed in Virginia
JL Skinner	\$131.89	licensed in Tennessee
Valhalla Produce	\$248.37	vehicle sold
F Willis	\$112.80	military (Florida)
DF Davenport	\$124.50	vehicle traded

Public Hearing – Rural Operating Assistance Program

Chairman Goodwin recessed the regular meeting and declared a public hearing open to receive comment on the proposed application for the Rural Operating Assistance Program. The funds would be used as follows: Elderly & Disabled Transportation Assistance Program \$36,125; Work First Employment Program \$3,733; and Rural General Public funds \$32,241, to be administered through the regional Transportation Authority.

No public comment was offered.

Chairman Goodwin declared the public hearing closed and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the application be approved for submission for the stated proposed uses by the regional Transportation Authority and that the resolution be approved for signatures by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Ayes 6

No 0

Public Hearing – Abandonment of a Portion of SR 1135 Bell Drive

The regular meeting was again recessed and a public hearing declared to receive comment on the proposed abandonment of a portion of SR 1135 Bell Drive.

County Attorney Peter Rascoe presented a proposal from landowner Paul Waff and the Department of Transportation to close .04 miles of Bell Drive. Mr. Waff is the property owner of all the adjacent property to the .04-mile portion. Because it is a deadend road and there are no homes on the section of road, it has become a dumping area. The closing of that section of road is requested to help control the trash and debris dumping.

No public comment was offered. The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting reconvened.

Commissioner Belfield motioned that the County approve the following resolution to authorize the abandonment of .04 mile of roadway on SR 1135, Bell Drive.

Ayes 6

No 0

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners was notified in writing on December 6, 2005 by the North Carolina Department of Transportation that 0.04 miles of NC State Road 1135 (western end of Bell Drive) had been abandoned from the control and supervision of that Department; and,

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners did on February 7, 2006 adopt a resolution declaring its intent to have the public road closed pursuant to NCGS 153A-241 and calling for a public hearing on the question to be held April 3, 2006; and,

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners did cause a notice of the public hearing to be published in The Chowan Herald weekly newspaper on March 15, March 22 and March 29, 2006 (a copy of the Publisher's Affidavit is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference); and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the question at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Chowan County at 6:00pm Monday, April 3, 2006 in the Panel Room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse at 117 East King Street, Edenton NC 27932; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners was presented no evidence at the public hearing causing it to believe that the closing of the portion of the public road is contrary to the public interest or that any individual owning property in the vicinity of the road would thereby be deprived of reasonable means of ingress or egress to his property.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Chowan County does hereby RESOLVE that the closing of the 0.04 miles of NC State Road 1135 (western end of Bell Drive) previously removed from the control and supervision of the North Carolina Department of Transportation is not contrary to the public interest and that no individual owning property in the vicinity of the road would thereby be deprived of reasonable means of ingress or egress to his property; and it is hereby ORDERED that the subject 0.04 miles of NC State Road 1135 (western end of Bell Drive) be closed. Accordingly, all right, title, and interest in the closed road is vested as prescribed in North Carolina General Statutes 153A-241.

Adopted this 3rd day of April, 2006.

R. Wayne Goodwin, Chairman

Nancy B. Morgan County Clerk

Planning/Inspection Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant reported that cleanup efforts in Cape Colony have been successful. The abandoned house has been demolished and removed and the owner of the abandoned bus on the property has promised to remove it.

She thanked the Commissioners for attending the joint Commissioners/Planning Board meeting in March and noted that the zoning plan consultant should have the document completed shortly for presentation to the Commissioners.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met and recommended the following items:

1. Lease/Purchase contract for public safety software for the law enforcement agencies and the 911 Center in the amount of \$168,000. Bids for financing were:

Wachovia Bank	3.75%
RBC Centura	3.80%
Southern Bank	3.96%
Gateway Bank	6.63%

Commissioner Cole made a motion that a resolution be approved to award the contract to the low bidder, Wachovia Bank at 3.75%.

Ayes 6

No 0

2. A copy of a draft capital outlay plan was presented for the Board's review. County Manager Cliff Copeland said that this would be a document in-work because it represents a tool for beginning a capital outlay plan for the next ten years. Items included in the draft plan are: expansion of the 1980 Courthouse; relocation of the softball fields at Earnhardt Field to Red Banks Farm; lighting for Fisher Field; a wellness center and a swimming pool; a new health department at the Chowan Life Center property; a new County Office Building facility; and a community center in the southern portion of the County which will also house the Recreation Department staff.

3. Disposition of the former White Oak School property was discussed. Due to the extensive renovations needed at the Old White Oak School for mechanical systems and a roof, it is the opinion of the Finance Committee that the money could be more efficiently used on other County buildings. One such building is Swain Auditorium, which needs extensive window repair. The only tenant of the White Oak property moved in January. The Recreation Department has used the auditorium area for gymnastics classes, which will be relocated.

Commissioner Belfield made a motion that the building and 9.3 acres of land be declared surplus and advertised for sale through sealed bids, with a minimum bid of \$65,000.

Ayes 6

No 0

4. Local Government Commission – Law Enforcement Center and Library

The Local Government Commissioner authorized submission of an application from Chowan County to proceed with interim financing for construction of the proposed Law Enforcement Center and the renovations to Shepard-Pruden Library.

Permanent financing of \$12 million for the Law Enforcement Center and \$1.8 million for the Library will be provided by the USDA in a thirty-year loan at 4%. Commercial financing of approximately \$700,000 will be required for the Library renovations.

Commissioner Gardner moved that the County schedule a public hearing for the May 1 meeting at 9:00am to receive comment on the proposed financing.

Ayes 6

No 0

Visit by Senator Holloman's Representative

Alexis Pugh, Research Assistant to Senator Robert Holloman, attended Monday's meeting to offer the Senator's assistance to the County. She noted the upcoming legislative session and requested that proposals be submitted to the Senator.

Chairman Goodwin and Mr. Copeland both noted Senator Holloman's generous assistance on several projects, particularly funding assistance for the College of the Albemarle Chowan County campus presently under construction.

Education Committee

Mr. Copeland reported that the joint Board of Commissioners/Board of Education committee met and discussed the renovation plan for Holmes High School and the issue of affordable housing in the County. He also highlighted his and the Superintendent's discussions regarding the possible allocation of resources to the Board of Education expected to result from the unprecedented residential growth forecast to take place in the County in the next ten years. These discussions center on the need to identify a plan that will steer the County's education system to the top ranks of school systems in the state and the nation, to provide the best possible education for the County's children. Items included are: student support services, pre-K programs, teacher recruitment/retention, and curriculum expansions.

Commissioner Cole commented on a recent meeting he attended where UNC President Erskine Bowles talked about his emphasis that colleges in the UNC System recruit good

candidates for the teaching profession, and a concentration in the college system to train students to become professional teachers.

Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for the Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds Sue Rountree presented a draft Records Retention and Disposition Schedule as recommended by the State for use by the Register of Deeds office.

Commissioner Downum made a motion that the County accept the Schedule as prepared by the State and recommended by the Register of Deeds.

Ayes 6

No 0

Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee Lead Agency

Commissioner Downum made a motion that the County designate The Albemarle Commission to continue to serve as the County's lead agency for the County's Home and Community Care Block Grant Program

Ayes 6

No 0

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Coding Error Discovered in Tax Office Software

Mr. Copeland reported that a coding error was discovered in the tax office software in the classification of soil types for farmland. The corrections have been made to the one soil type involved, which lowered the value of the affected properties. Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks is notifying the affected landowners. Properties involved include 189 parcels and a loss of approximately \$15,000 in tax revenue.

Sewer Project

Applications are being submitted for funding assistance for the construction of the sewer service for the southern portion of the County. No funds have yet been identified and secured.

Northeast Economic Development Commission

Mr. Copeland announced that the Executive Director of the Northeast Economic Development Commission, Rick Watson, resigned and terminated his employment about two weeks ago. Van Rogerson, a staff member of the Department of Commerce, is serving as interim Director. The audit report for the agency has been completed and will be made public by the Commission. Nine findings were identified and are being addressed by the Commission Board of Directors. The Manager Committee, of which Mr. Copeland is a member, is working closely with the Board of Directors to address the issues and work toward an agreement for operations for the sixteen counties in the Northeast Economic Development Commission's service area.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Board of Equalization and Review

The Board of Equalization and Review convened at 7:00pm, Monday, April 3, 2006, with Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks serving as Clerk.

County Clerk Nancy Morgan received the oaths of office for the members of the Board of Equalization and Review.

Ms. Hendricks presented the taxpayers to be heard by the Board of Equalization and Review: Richard V. Halbert, Jerry Holmes and George and Patricia Grother.

Results of the hearings are available in the Tax Office.

The meeting was recessed until the May 1 meeting at 10:00a.m.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk